

COUNTY PROFILE

# Otter Tail Co.

Otter Tail Co. is a part of Economic Development Region 4, which is located in the Northwest Planning Region.



## POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS

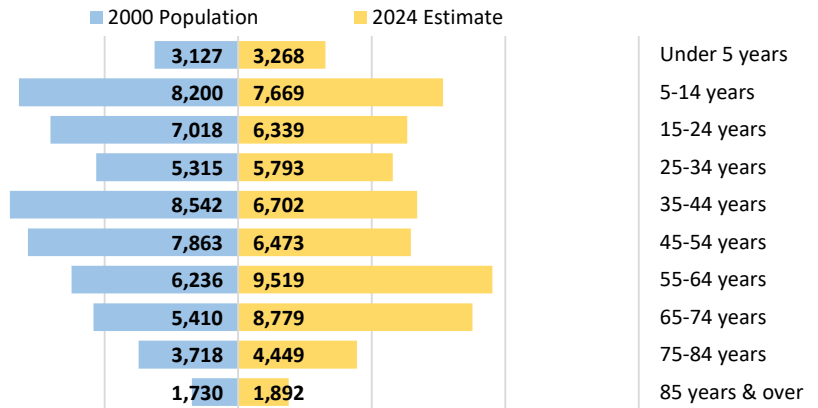
2024 population:	<b>60,884 people</b>	Median Age:	<b>46.3 years</b>
Population change, 2020-2024	803 people 1.3% increase	state:	38.6 years

Otter Tail Co. is the 17th largest of the 87 counties in the state. Its population increased so far this decade, ranking as the 34th fastest growing in the state from 2020 to 2024. Otter Tail Co.'s population has an older median age than the state and a larger percentage of people aged 65 years and older. The population is aging, especially as the Baby Boom generation moves through the population pyramid (see Figure 1).

	Number	Percent
Under 5 years	3,268	5.4%
5-14 years	7,669	12.6%
15-24 years	6,339	10.4%
25-34 years	5,793	9.5%
35-44 years	6,702	11.0%
45-54 years	6,473	10.6%
55-64 years	9,519	15.6%
65-74 years	8,779	14.4%
75-84 years	4,449	7.3%
85 years & over	1,892	3.1%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>60,884</b>	<b>100.0%</b>

Source: Census 2024 Population Estimates, 2019-2023 ACS

Figure 1. Population Pyramid, 2000-2024



Otter Tail Co. suffered a negative natural increase - more deaths than births from 2020 to 2024, but also experienced net in-migration - meaning more people moved in than moved out. In addition to domestic in-migration, Otter Tail Co. welcomed net international in-migration - gaining new Minnesotans from foreign countries (see Table 2).

Table 2. Cumulative Estimates of the Components of Population Change, 2020-2024

	Total Population Change	April 1, 2020 to July 1, 2024					
		Natural Increase	Vital Events		Net Migration		
			Births	Deaths	Total	International	Domestic
Otter Tail Co.	823	-721	2,544	3,265	1,531	314	1,217
State of Minnesota	86,459	51,570	268,689	217,119	33,161	81,091	-47,930

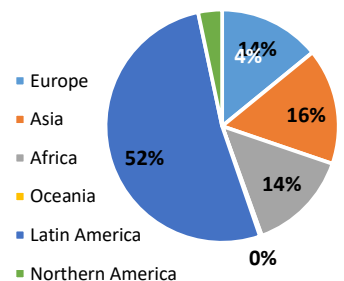
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Compared to the state, Otter Tail Co. has a smaller percentage of foreign-born residents. From 2013 to 2023, Otter Tail Co. saw an increase in the number of foreign-born residents, though it was slower than the statewide increase.

	Otter Tail Co.		Change 2013-2023		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Percent	Change
<b>Foreign-born Population</b>	<b>1,538</b>	<b>2.6%</b>	<b>77</b>	<b>5.3%</b>	<b>8.6%</b>	<b>24.7%</b>
Europe	217	14.1%	9	4.3%	8.8%	-3.4%
Asia	248	16.1%	-16	-6.1%	35.7%	18.1%
Africa	219	14.2%	25	12.9%	28.3%	78.8%
Oceania	4	0.3%	1	33.3%	0.4%	5.4%
Americas:	850	55.3%	58	7.3%	26.7%	8.7%
Latin America	799	52.0%	88	12.4%	24.2%	9.7%
Northern America	51	3.3%	-30	-37.0%	2.5%	0.4%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 2. Place of Birth for the Foreign Born Population, 2023

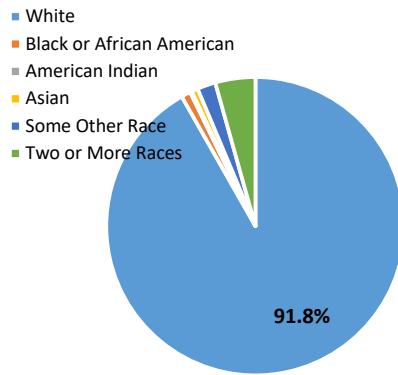


## COUNTY PROFILE

## Otter Tail Co.

Otter Tail Co.'s population was becoming more racially diverse over time. Since 2013, the white population increased and the number of people of other races increased (see Table 4).

**Figure 3. Population by Race, 2023**



**Table 4. Race and Hispanic Origin, 2023**

	Otter Tail Co.			Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Change from 2013-2023	Percent	Change from 2013-2023
<b>Total</b>	<b>60,281</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>5.1%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>6.8%</b>
White	55,320	91.8%	0.5%	78.4%	-2.2%
Black or African American	608	1.0%	3.1%	6.8%	38.9%
American Indian or Alaska Native	118	0.2%	-49.6%	0.9%	-11.6%
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	412	0.7%	24.5%	5.1%	29.6%
Some Other Race	1,200	2.0%	166.7%	2.7%	96.1%
Two or More Races	2,623	4.4%	276.9%	6.2%	168.3%
Hispanic or Latino origin	2,260	3.7%	41.6%	6.2%	37.5%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

## POPULATION PROJECTIONS

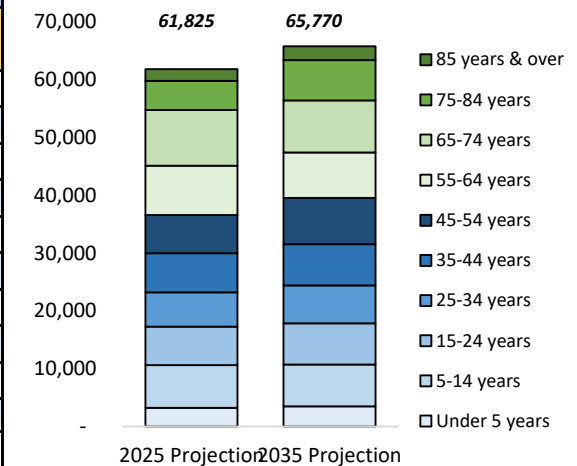
According to the Minnesota State Demographic Center, Otter Tail Co.'s population is expected to grow from 2025 to 2035, with a rate of change that is faster than the projected statewide growth rate (3.7%). In addition to the overall growth, the number of people aged 65 years and older is expected to increase over the next decade (see Figure 4 and Table 5).

**Table 5. Population Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**

Otter Tail Co.	2025 Projection	2035 Projection	Numeric Change	Percent Change
Under 5 years	3,246	3,490	244	7.5%
5-14 years	7,356	7,222	-134	-1.8%
15-24 years	6,709	7,147	438	6.5%
25-34 years	5,903	6,560	657	11.1%
35-44 years	6,766	7,134	368	5.4%
45-54 years	6,601	8,027	1,426	21.6%
55-64 years	8,538	7,867	-671	-7.9%
65-74 years	9,656	8,998	-658	-6.8%
75-84 years	5,018	6,944	1,926	38.4%
85 years & over	2,032	2,381	349	17.2%
<b>Total Population</b>	<b>61,825</b>	<b>65,770</b>	<b>3,945</b>	<b>6.4%</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center

**Figure 4. Projections by Age Group, 2025-2035**



## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

Otter Tail Co. has a lower percentage of adults (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma than the state (93.2%), and a lower percentage of people with at least some college experience. Otter Tail Co. also has a higher percentage of people with an Associate's degree and a lower percentage of people with a Bachelor's degree or higher.

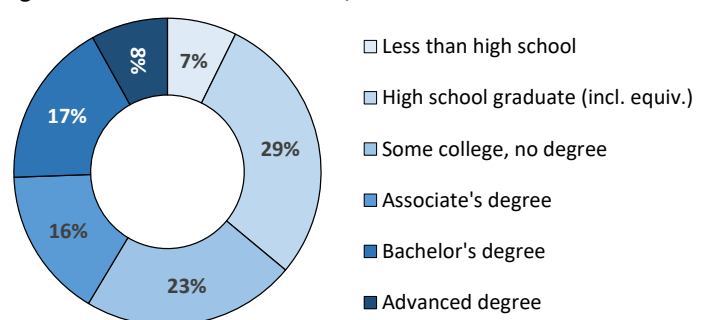
**Percentage of the adult population (18 years & over) with at least a high school diploma:**

**92.7%**

**College-educated:** 64.0%  
state: 68.8%

**Associate's Degree:** 15.8%  
**Bachelor's Degree:** 17.5%  
**Advanced Degree:** 8.1%

**Figure 5. Educational Attainment, 2023**



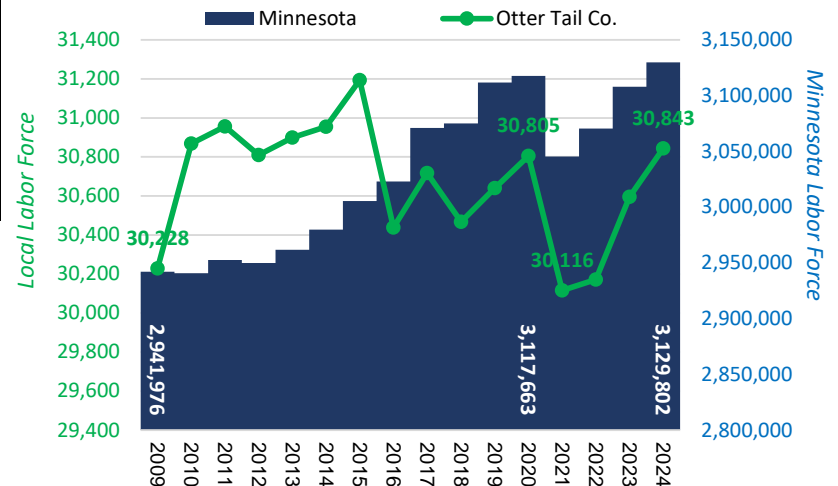
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2019-2023 American Community Survey

## LABOR FORCE TRENDS

At 3.4%, Otter Tail Co. had a higher unemployment rate than the state in 2024. After the pandemic recession Otter Tail Co.'s unemployment rate declined compared to the 4.4% pre-pandemic rate posted in 2019. The number of unemployed workers actively seeking work in Otter Tail Co. increased over the past year, and is down compared to 2019.

<b>30,843</b>	available workers
Labor Force change, 2009-2024	615 workers 2.0% increase
<b>3.4%</b>	unemployment rate
2.8%	state
<b>1,049</b>	unemployed workers

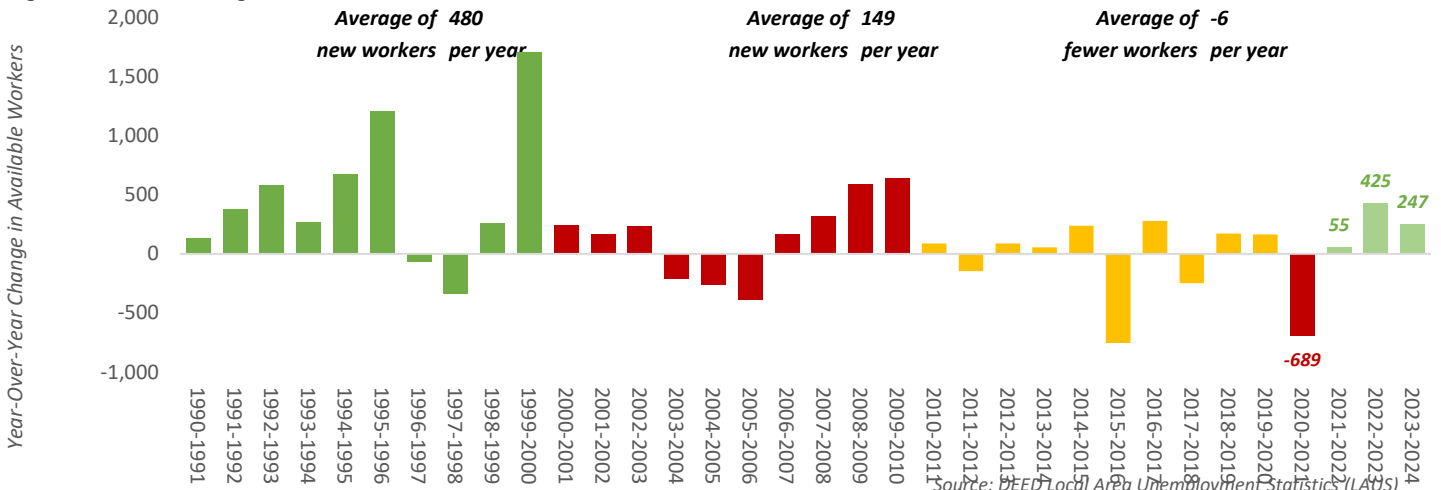
Figure 6. Annual Labor Force Estimates



Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics

Labor force growth has slowed in recent years. After experiencing a net gain of workers each year from 1990 to 2000, Otter Tail Co. averaged an annual gain of new workers from 2000 to 2010, and most recently a loss of fewer workers since 2010 (see Figure 7). Moving forward, Otter Tail Co. is expected to add workers from 2025 to 2035 (see Table 6).

Figure 7. Annual Change in Labor Force, 1990-2024



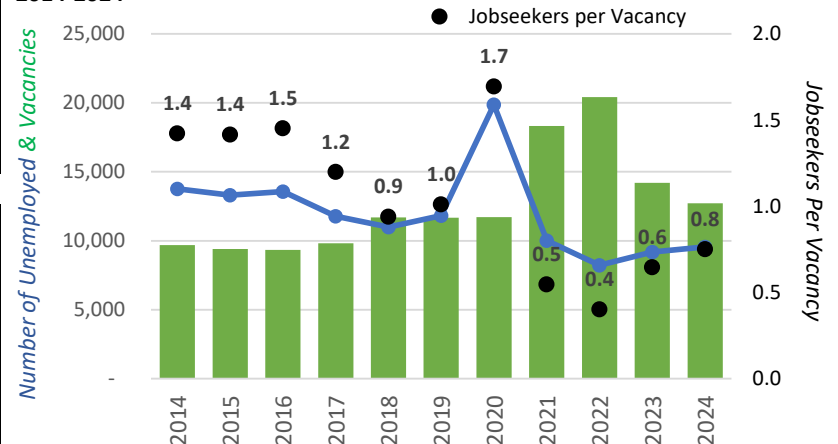
Source: DEED Local Area Unemployment Statistics (LAUS)

Table 6. Labor Force Projections, 2025-2035	Labor Force Projection	
	2025	2035
16 to 24 years	4,219	4,585
25 to 54 years	17,019	19,181
55 to 64 years	6,003	5,532
65 years & over	3,023	3,021
<b>Total Labor Force</b>	<b>30,263</b>	<b>32,318</b>

Source: Minnesota State Demographic Center, 2019-2023 ACS

The labor market had grown extremely tight in recent years, with less than 1 jobseeker per vacancy until the pandemic recession intervened in early 2020 and the number of unemployed workers spiked. In 2024, job vacancies in Northwest returned to pre-pandemic levels, but employers are still seeing challenges finding enough workers for open jobs (see Figure 8).

Figure 8. Jobseekers Per Vacancy, 2014-2024



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, LAUS program

## LABOR FORCE CHARACTERISTICS

Otter Tail Co. had a lower labor force participation rate than the state. The labor force in Otter Tail Co. is less racially diverse than the state (where 80.0% of workers are white alone), but is becoming more diverse over time.

Table 7. Employment Characteristics, 2023

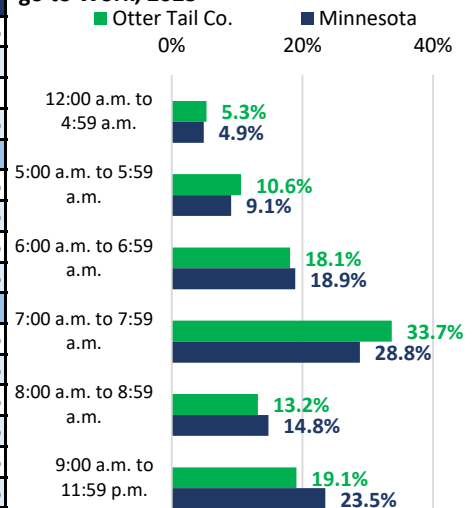
	Otter Tail Co.			Minnesota		Labor Force by Gender	
	In Labor Force (available workers)	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Labor Force Partic. Rate	Unemp. Rate	Male	Female
Total Labor Force	29,775	61.2%	5.1%	68.5%	3.9%	15,942	13,855
16 to 19 years	1,585	58.3%	4.0%	52.7%	9.9%	905	679
20 to 24 years	2,283	82.8%	11.3%	83.4%	6.5%	1,099	1,185
25 to 44 years	10,940	88.4%	5.4%	88.7%	3.5%	5,931	5,005
45 to 54 years	5,646	88.1%	4.0%	87.8%	2.9%	2,922	2,725
55 to 64 years	6,627	70.3%	4.1%	72.8%	3.0%	3,511	3,118
65 to 74 years	2,251	25.9%	4.4%	27.8%	3.4%	1,297	954
75 years & over	465	7.4%	4.5%	6.6%	3.1%	277	189
Employment Characteristics by Race & Hispanic Origin						<b>Figure 9. Labor Force by Race, 2023</b>  ■ White alone ■ Black or African American ■ American Indian & Alaska Native ■ Asian or Other Pac. Islanders ■ Some Other Race	
White alone	27,366	60.3%	4.1%	67.5%	3.4%		
Black or African American	357	79.0%	22.1%	71.0%	8.4%		
American Indian & Alaska Native	46	47.9%	10.9%	57.7%	11.4%		
Asian or Other Pac. Islanders	177	71.7%	0.5%	74.6%	3.5%		
Some Other Race	620	79.1%	6.9%	75.9%	5.6%		
Two or More Races	1,237	73.2%	22.4%	74.2%	6.1%		
Hispanic or Latino	1,127	77.5%	15.4%	77.1%	5.9%		
Employment Characteristics by Disability, 20 to 64 years							
With Any Disability, 20 to 64 years	2,016	57.3%	14.3%	55.3%	9.5%		
Employment Characteristics by Educational Attainment, 25 to 64 years							
Population, 25 to 64 years	23,214	82.3%	4.7%	84.4%	3.3%		
Less than H.S. Diploma	1,190	71.4%	4.4%	67.1%	4.7%		
H.S. Diploma or Equivalent	5,604	76.7%	1.1%	76.5%	2.6%		
Some College or Assoc. Degree	9,521	84.4%	5.8%	85.0%	3.6%		
Bachelor's Degree or Higher	6,902	86.8%	2.5%	90.5%	2.0%		

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

A larger percentage of workers in Otter Tail Co. worked in the same county in which they live compared to the state. Otter Tail Co. also had a shorter average commute time than the state.

Table 8. Commuting Characteristics, 2022	Otter Tail Co.		Minnesota	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
Worked in state of residence	26,397	94.7%	2,870,678	97.8%
Worked in county of residence	21,379	76.7%	1,984,232	67.6%
Worked out of county of residence	5,017	18.0%	886,447	30.2%
Worked outside state of residence	1,477	5.3%	64,576	2.2%
<b>MEANS OF TRANSPORTATION TO WORK</b>				
Car, truck, or van	23,247	83.4%	2,286,563	77.9%
Public transportation (excl. taxicab)	195	0.7%	61,640	2.1%
Other method (walk, bike, taxi, etc.)	1,366	4.9%	120,345	4.1%
Worked at home	3,038	10.9%	463,770	15.8%
<b>TRAVEL TIME TO WORK</b>				
Less than 10 minutes	7,554	27.1%	478,446	16.3%
10 to 19 minutes	8,697	31.2%	924,605	31.5%
20 to 29 minutes	4,488	16.1%	651,626	22.2%
30 to 44 minutes	3,902	14.0%	551,828	18.8%
45 to 59 minutes	1,422	5.1%	176,115	6.0%
60 or more minutes	1,840	6.6%	149,698	5.1%
<b>Mean travel time to work (minutes)</b>	<b>21.3 minutes</b>		<b>23.1 minutes</b>	

Figure 10. Time Leaving Home to go to Work, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

# COUNTY PROFILE Otter Tail Co.

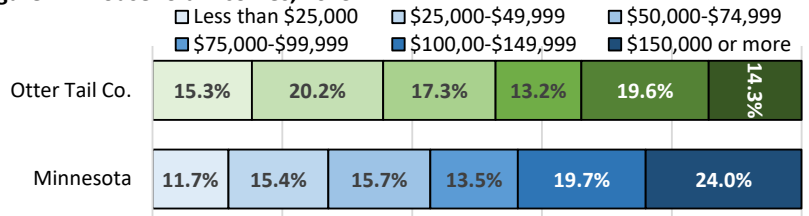
## INCOMES, COST OF LIVING, & HOUSING

Otter Tail Co. had a lower median household income than the state, and a higher percentage of households with incomes below \$50,000. Overall, Otter Tail Co. had the 51st highest median household income of the 87 counties in the state.

<b>Median Household Income</b>	<b>\$70,912</b>
state	\$87,556
<b>Median Family Income</b>	<b>\$92,690</b>
state	\$111,492
<b>Per Capita Income</b>	<b>\$38,723</b>
state	\$46,957

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey

Figure 11. Household Incomes, 2023



Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates

The cost of living has increased over the past 2 years with costs up in many areas. Otter Tail Co. had a lower cost of living than the state, with a required hourly wage of \$14.22 for a single person living alone to meet a basic needs cost of living, and an hourly wage requirement of \$18.91 for a typical family with 2 adults and 1 child (see Table 9).

Table 9. Basic Needs Cost of Living Estimates, 2024

Single Adult, 0 children	Single Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Otter Tail Co.	\$29,569	\$14.22	\$0	\$415	\$150	\$728	\$612	\$264	\$295
State of Minnesota	\$36,768	\$17.68	\$0	\$424	\$156	\$1,154	\$573	\$365	\$392
Typical Family: 2 Adults (1 working full-time, 1 part-time), 1 child	Family Yearly Cost of Living	Hourly Wage Required	Monthly Costs						
			Child Care	Food	Health Care	Housing	Transportation	Other	Taxes
Otter Tail Co.	\$59,001	\$18.91	\$354	\$944	\$530	\$971	\$1,129	\$443	\$546
State of Minnesota	\$70,308	\$22.53	\$545	\$964	\$556	\$1,446	\$1,028	\$557	\$763

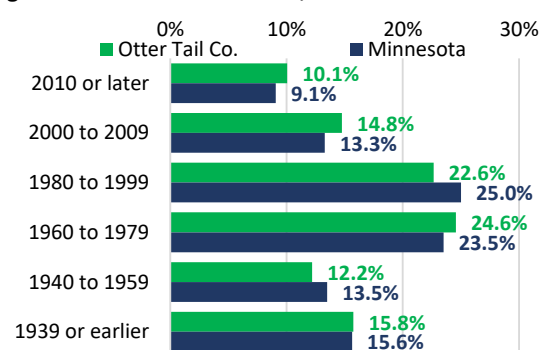
Source: DEED Cost of Living tool

Otter Tail Co. had a lower median house value than the state, having the 27th highest value of the 87 counties in 2022. Otter Tail Co.'s housing stock was newer than the state's, with a higher percentage of units built since 2000 (see Figure 12).

Table 10. Estimated Value of Owner-occupied Housing Units, 2022	Otter Tail Co.		Minnesota
	Total	Percent	Percent
<b>Total</b>	<b>19,934</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Less than \$50,000	882	4.4%	4.0%
\$50,000 to \$99,999	1,491	7.5%	4.0%
\$100,000 to \$149,999	2,534	12.7%	6.2%
\$150,000 to \$199,999	2,481	12.4%	8.9%
\$200,000 to \$299,999	4,837	24.3%	25.7%
\$300,000 to \$499,999	4,693	23.5%	33.6%
\$500,000 or more	3,016	15.1%	17.5%
<b>Median (dollars)</b>	<b>\$252,500</b>		<b>\$305,500</b>

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

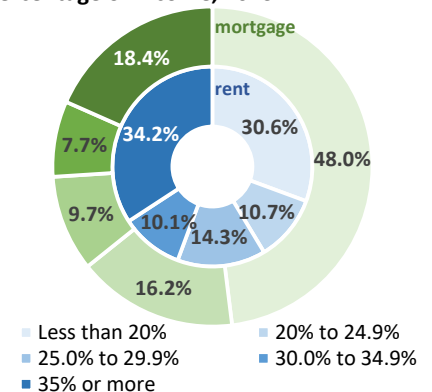
Figure 12. Year Structure Built, 2023



<b>Median monthly owner costs, owner-occupied units with a mortgage</b>	<b>\$1,549</b>
state	\$1,890
<b>Percentage of households with a mortgage spending 30% or more of their income on housing costs</b>	<b>26.0%</b>
state	22.5%
<b>Median monthly rent costs</b>	<b>\$805</b>
state	\$1,235
<b>Percentage of renters spending 30% or more of their household income on rent</b>	<b>44.3%</b>
state	47.2%

Source: 2019-2023 American Community Survey, 5-Year Estimates

Figure 13. Housing Costs as a Percentage of Income, 2023





## COUNTY PROFILE

Otter Tail Co.

## OCCUPATIONS

At \$23.2 in 2024, wages were lower in Region 4 than the state. Overall, Region 4 had the 8th highest median hourly wage level of the 13 economic development regions in the state. Wages were highest for management occupations (\$47.94) and lowest for food preparation and serving related jobs (\$14.54) (see Table 11).

**Table 11. Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, 2025**

Occupational Group	Region 4				State of Minnesota		
	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Regional Jobs	Share of Total Jobs	Regional Location Quotient	Median Hourly Wage	Estimated Statewide Jobs	Share of Total Jobs
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>\$23.20</b>	<b>89,640</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>1.0</b>	<b>\$26.22</b>	<b>2,920,470</b>	<b>100.0%</b>
Management	\$47.94	4,960	5.5%	0.8	\$59.38	200,060	6.9%
Business & Financial Operations	\$34.66	3,480	3.9%	0.5	\$39.95	208,210	7.1%
Computer & Mathematical	\$37.75	1,070	1.2%	0.4	\$50.02	97,460	3.3%
Architecture & Engineering	\$38.29	1,510	1.7%	0.8	\$45.03	57,950	2.0%
Life, Physical & Social Science	\$34.22	620	0.7%	0.6	\$38.33	32,150	1.1%
Community & Social Service	\$28.65	2,020	2.3%	1.1	\$29.82	59,290	2.0%
Legal	\$35.38	370	0.4%	0.6	\$49.52	20,750	0.7%
Education, Training & Library	\$26.95	6,740	7.5%	1.3	\$27.84	170,270	5.8%
Arts, Design, Entertainment & Media	\$22.37	850	0.9%	0.8	\$28.84	36,030	1.2%
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	\$38.26	5,470	6.1%	1.0	\$46.51	187,480	6.4%
Healthcare Support	\$18.66	5,250	5.9%	1.0	\$18.67	176,750	6.1%
Protective Service	\$28.32	1,510	1.7%	1.0	\$29.37	46,960	1.6%
Food Preparation & Serving Related	\$14.54	8,480	9.5%	1.1	\$16.05	240,830	8.2%
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	\$19.25	3,200	3.6%	1.3	\$19.16	81,700	2.8%
Personal Care & Service	\$16.72	2,040	2.3%	1.0	\$17.54	63,300	2.2%
Sales & Related	\$17.42	8,040	9.0%	1.1	\$18.66	244,780	8.4%
Office & Administrative Support	\$22.80	9,940	11.1%	1.0	\$24.07	340,040	11.6%
Farming, Fishing & Forestry	\$22.72	250	0.3%	2.5	\$23.48	3,300	0.1%
Construction & Extraction	\$30.11	4,720	5.3%	1.3	\$34.20	114,050	3.9%
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$28.12	3,910	4.4%	1.2	\$30.40	105,650	3.6%
Production	\$23.41	7,440	8.3%	1.2	\$23.56	205,220	7.0%
Transportation & Material Moving	\$21.59	7,770	8.7%	1.1	\$19.80	228,260	7.8%

Source: DEED Occupational Employment & Wage Statistics, Qtr. 1 2025

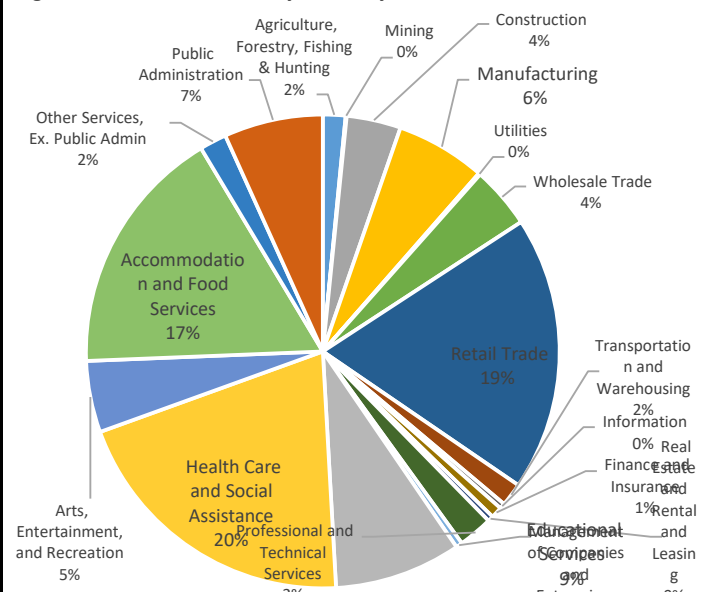
## JOB VACANCY SURVEY

Otter Tail Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region. There were 12718 job vacancies posted by employers in 2024, indicating extensive opportunity in the region, with openings across several occupations and industries (see Figure 14).

**Table 12. Northwest Job Vacancy Survey Results, 2024**

Occupational Group	Number of Vacancies	Wage Offer
<b>Total, All Occupations</b>	<b>12,718</b>	<b>\$18.57</b>
Management	171	\$30.60
Business & Financial Operations	215	\$21.51
Computer & Mathematical	63	\$19.52
Architecture & Engineering	322	\$34.28
Life, Physical & Social Sciences	57	\$25.42
Community & Social Service	386	\$21.69
Education, Training & Library	638	\$20.64
Healthcare Practitioners & Technical	1,009	\$31.22
Healthcare Support	1,082	\$18.32
Protective Service	188	\$23.57
Food Preparation & Serving Related	2,330	\$15.00
Building, Grounds Cleaning & Maint.	625	\$17.65
Personal Care & Service	327	\$18.14
Sales & Related	1,850	\$15.63
Office & Administrative Support	525	\$18.77
Construction & Extraction	441	\$23.70
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	751	\$20.05
Production	604	\$19.93
Transportation & Material Moving	662	\$18.81

**Figure 14. Job Vacancies by Industry, 2024**



Source: DEED Job Vacancy Survey, 2024

## OCCUPATIONS IN DEMAND

Table 13. Northwest Planning Region Occupations in Demand, 2024

Less than High School	High School or Equivalent	Some College or Assoc. Deg.	Bachelor's Degree or Higher
Home Health and Personal Care Aides \$36,108/yr	Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers \$54,491/yr	Registered Nurses \$84,785/yr	General and Operations Managers \$77,521/yr
Retail Salespersons \$35,088/yr	Nursing Assistants \$40,033/yr	Police and Sheriff's Patrol Officers \$71,010/yr	Elementary School Teachers, Except Special Education \$64,121/yr
Cashiers \$30,773/yr	Licensed Practical and Licensed Vocational Nurses \$54,946/yr	Radiologic Technologists and Technicians \$78,771/yr	Secondary School Teachers, Except Special and Career/Technical \$66,299/yr
Teaching Assistants, Except Postsecondary \$38,126/yr	Automotive Service Technicians and Mechanics \$47,486/yr	Dental Hygienists \$85,989/yr	Accountants and Auditors \$64,893/yr
Stockers and Order Fillers \$40,709/yr	Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks \$48,131/yr	Civil Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$71,227/yr	Substitute Teachers, Short-Term \$46,162/yr
Janitors and Cleaners, Except Maids and \$38,122/yr	Substance abuse, behavioral disorder, and mental health counselors \$49,479/yr	Paralegals and Legal Assistants \$59,200/yr	Medical and Health Services Managers \$102,974/yr
Cooks, Restaurant \$36,830/yr	Machinists \$51,295/yr	Occupational Therapy Assistants \$59,627/yr	Child, Family, and School Social Workers \$63,680/yr
Food Preparation Workers \$31,855/yr	Electricians \$65,524/yr	Computer Network Support Specialists \$70,049/yr	Preschool Teachers, Except Special Education \$37,999/yr
Miscellaneous Assemblers and Fabricators \$40,826/yr	Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists \$59,152/yr	Surgical Technologists \$64,809/yr	Pharmacists \$140,993/yr
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers \$46,395/yr	Paramedics \$64,134/yr	Industrial Engineering Technologists and Technicians \$60,791/yr	Physical Therapists \$98,061/yr

Source: DEED Occupations in Demand

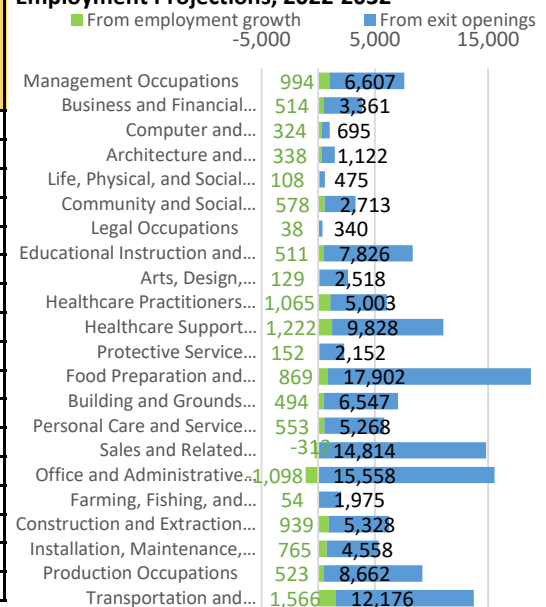
Otter Tail Co. is a part of the Northwest planning region, which is projected to see a 3.9% increase in employment levels over the next decade. In addition to new jobs created, there will be a much larger number of exit openings (see Figure 15).

Table 14. Regional Industry Employment Projections, 2022-2032

	Estimated Employment 2022	Projected Employment 2032	Percent Change 2022-2032
<b>Northwest Planning Region</b>			
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>265,321</b>	<b>275,647</b>	<b>3.9%</b>
Natural Resources & Mining	6,095	6,335	3.9%
Utilities	1,126	1,125	-0.1%
Construction	11,719	12,715	8.5%
Manufacturing	29,871	31,429	5.2%
Wholesale Trade	12,936	14,034	8.5%
Retail Trade	27,705	27,590	-0.4%
Transportation & Warehousing	5,579	5,997	7.5%
Information	2,451	2,470	0.8%
Finance & Insurance, Real Estate	8,067	8,366	3.7%
Professional Services & Mgmt. of Companies	5,609	6,152	9.7%
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt.	4,192	4,460	6.4%
Educational Services	22,849	22,989	0.6%
Health Care & Social Assistance	36,421	38,978	7.0%
Leisure & Hospitality	24,958	26,706	7.0%
Other Services	9,824	10,129	3.1%
Public Administration	24,161	24,869	2.9%

Source: DEED 2022-2032 Employment Outlook

Figure 15. Regional Occupational Employment Projections, 2022-2032



## ECONOMIC CHARACTERISTICS

Coming out of the pandemic recession, after gaining jobs over the past year, Otter Tail Co. had the 18th largest economy of the 87 counties in the state. Otter Tail Co. was the 42nd fastest growing in the past year and the 47th fastest growing since 2019. From 2019 to 2024, employment in Otter Tail Co. has grown since the pandemic recession.

1,908 business establishments

\$52,003 annual average wage

22,879 jobs

\$1,189,781,567 total industry payroll

Job change,  
2019-2024

1,217 jobs  
5.6% increase

Figure 16. Industry Employment Statistics, 2005-2024

Source: DEED QCEW program

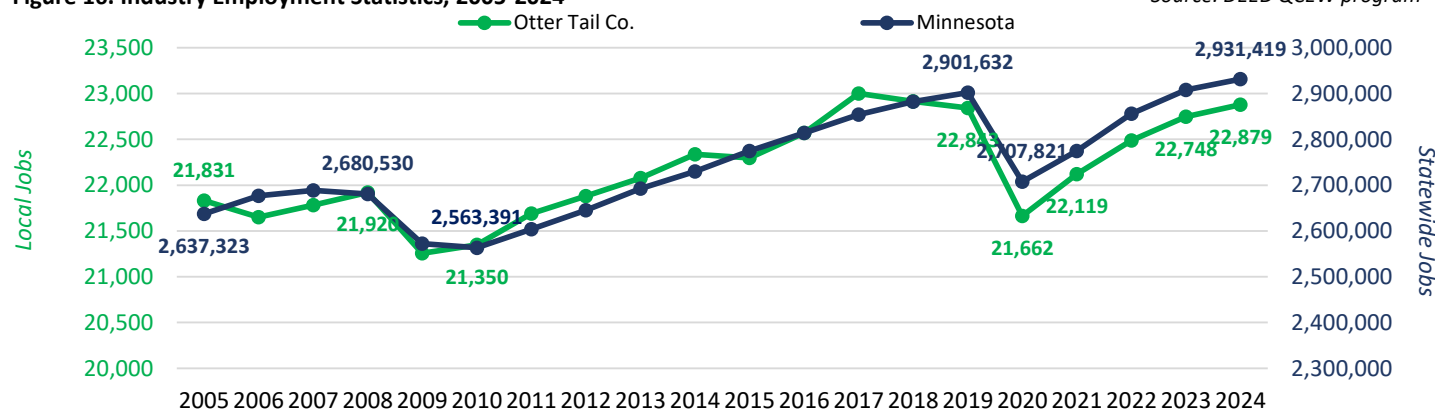
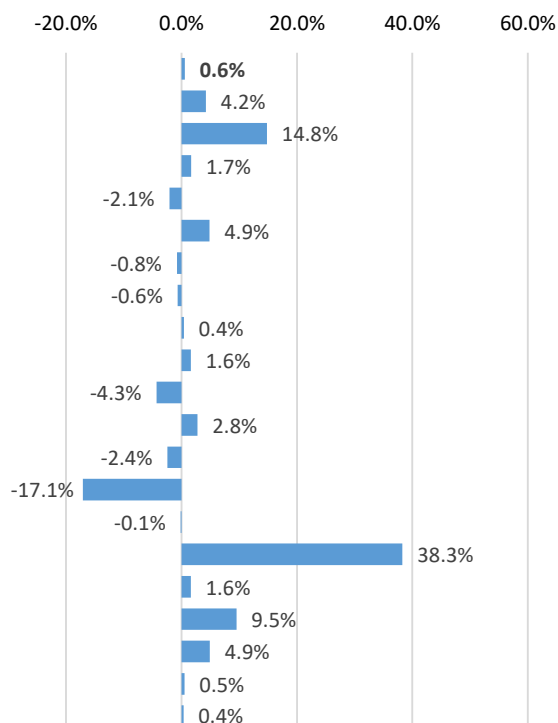


Table 15. Otter Tail Co. Industry Employment Statistics, 2024	Number of Jobs	Percent of Total Jobs	Average Annual Wage
<b>Total, All Industries</b>	<b>22,879</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>\$52,003</b>
Agriculture, Forestry, Fish & Hunt	418	1.8%	\$48,651
Mining	31	0.1%	\$44,918
Construction	1,274	5.6%	\$62,398
Manufacturing	3,874	16.9%	\$61,563
Utilities	495	2.2%	\$109,396
Wholesale Trade	647	2.8%	\$63,392
Retail Trade	2,642	11.5%	\$33,203
Transportation & Warehousing	485	2.1%	\$48,288
Information	441	1.9%	\$77,021
Finance & Insurance	489	2.1%	\$74,170
Real Estate & Rental & Leasing	148	0.6%	\$35,127
Professional & Technical Services	481	2.1%	\$60,351
Management of Companies	68	0.3%	\$289,076
Admin. Support & Waste Mgmt. Svcs.	786	3.4%	\$50,133
Educational Services	1,864	8.1%	\$12,138
Health Care & Social Assistance	4,470	19.5%	\$13,657
Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation	310	1.4%	\$17,216
Accommodation & Food Services	1,984	8.7%	\$19,902
Other Services	753	3.3%	\$33,468
Public Administration	1,383	6.0%	\$63,279

Figure 17. Change in Jobs, 2023-2024



Source: DEED Quarterly Census of Employment &amp; Wages (QCEW)

For more information on Otter Tail Co.'s population, labor force, and economic trends, contact:

**Anthony Schaffhauser** | Regional Analyst, Northwest Minnesota  
 CareerForce Bemidji | 616 America Avenue NW, Suite 210 | Bemidji, MN 56601  
 Office: 320-441-6594 | Email: [anthony.schaffhauser@state.mn.us](mailto:anthony.schaffhauser@state.mn.us)  
 web: [www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/](http://www.mn.gov/deed/data/regional-lmi/)

Data updated: May 23, 2025